

(b) if so, the total transportation amount paid to these companies owned by the ex-servicemen during the financial year 2005-06;

(c) the approximate excess amount paid to the companies owned by the ex-servicemen by the Coal India Limited in comparison to the amount paid to civilian companies; and

(d) whether Ministry of Defence has reimbursed the said losses suffered by the Coal India Limited as the said scheme has been proposed by the Ministry of Defence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. ESM companies are deployed in coal producing subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL) except Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL), Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) and North Eastern Coalfields (NEC) for coal transportation work as per the Memorandum of Understanding between Director General Resettlement (Ministry of Defence) and Coal India Limited.

(b) The total amount paid to the coal transportation companies owned ex-servicemen during the financial year 2005-06 is Rs. 536 88 crores.

(c) The rate of coal transportation for ESM company is fixed for different leads based on normative rates as per the recommendations of M/s Price Water House Coopers. However, in case of transportation done by civilian transport agency, the award of work is done through open tender and rate is recommended by Tender Committee and approved by the competent authority. As the payment made to ESM companies is based on normative rates, whereas payment made to civilian transport companies is based on tendered rate, the two rates are not exactly comparable. As such the question of excess payment made to ex-servicemen transport companies does not arise.

(d) In view of reply to (c) above, question does not arise.

Illegal mining of coal

3050. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of coal which is daily mined illegally and sent to different parts of the country on regular basis;

[3 May, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) in what way, Government would propose to break this nexus of coal miners, coal transporters and traders; and

(c) the estimated loss per annum to Government due to illegal mining?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) Illegal mining activities are being done in the nature of clandestine extraction and pilferage of coal from the abandoned/ disused workings or from outcrop regions within the lease-hold as well as outside the lease-hold areas of the coal companies and as such it is not possible to exactly specify the quantity of coal mined by illegal mining.

However, on the basis of raids conducted by security personnel as well as joint raids with law and order authorities of the concerned State Governments, the quantity of coal seized and its value during last three years is given below:

Company		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	3(Prov.)
	Qty. of coal seized	Value (Rs. lakhs) (Te)	Qty. of coal seized (Te)	Value (Rs. lakhs)	Qty. of coal seized (Te) Value (Rs. lakhs)
Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	2625.00	21.00	1331.97	10.64	2481.00 24.31
Bharat Coking Coal Limited	363.00	364	120.50	1.96	63931 10.41
Central Coalfields Limited	128.00	1.28	428.00	4.86	532.50 5.66
Northern Coalfields Limited	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00 0.00
Western Coalfields Limited	74.00	0.75	144.00	1.44	26.50 0.28
South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	43.00	0.44	955.65	9.56	42 50 0.48
Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00 0.00
North East Coalfields Ltd.	0.00	0.00	600.00	7!20	0.00 0.00
Coal India Limited	3233.00	27.11	3580.12	35.66	3721.81 41.13

Since law and order is a State subject, the Ministry of Coal has requested the State Governments concerned from time to time to take strong and effective measures to check illegal mining.

In addition, the following steps are taken by coal companies to prevent illegal mining:— *

- (i) Rat holes created by illegal mining are being dozed off and filled up with stone and debris wherever possible.
- (ii) Concrete walls have been created on the mouth of the abandoned mines to prevent access and illegal activities in these areas.
- (iii) Fencing is being constructed at the various illegal mining sites along with displaying of signboards mentioning "Dangerous and Prohibited Place".
- (iv) Dumping of the overburden is being done on the outcrop zones which are not required to be mined.
- (v) Collection of intelligence reports about illegal coal depots and illegal movement of coal and informing district authorities of the same for taking preventive action.
- (vi) Installation of check-posts at vulnerable points to check transport documents.
- (vii) Training of existing security personnel, refresher training of CISF personnel and basic training of new recruits in security discipline for strengthening the security set up.
- (viii) The coal companies maintain close liaison with the State authorities.

Open cast coal mines

3051. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware of the increasing number of open cast coal mines in the country;
- (b) if so, whether Government have framed any rules and regulations in this regard; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.